

**Bedford and Wycombe meet again
after rain wrecks second replay**

CUP CLASH HALTED IN EXTRA TIME

By NIGEL CLARKE

Wycombe W. 1, Bedford 1 (abandoned in extra time)

THE rain that lashed little Loakes Park last night was the only winner in this F A Cup first round second replay.

After 300 minutes of fierce football Isthmian League amateurs Wycombe and Southern League Bedford are still level.

For with the first kick of extra time Harlow referee Arthur Dimond abandoned the match because the pitch was almost waterlogged.

"It was unfair to go on," said Dimond. "Both sides were nearly out on their feet and in the water and mud it would not have been just for one team to have won by a fluke."

The clubs will meet in a third replay at Bedford on Thursday. It should have been at Loakes Park again but Bedford manager Ron Burgess said: "Ridiculous, this pitch won't recover for at least another two weeks."

Long before the finish last night the pitch was a muddy morass, ankle-deep in water. But to their credit both teams battled bravely in the conditions.

There was little good football. Instead, tremendous excitement.

Tackling became more luck than judgment and shots, hit powerfully from twenty yards barely reached the goalkeepers.

Bedford, famous for their Cup campaigning, should have settled it without the game going to extra time.

They bombarded Wycombe, and twice Chris Riley squandered good chances.

Heading

Wycombe had their chances, too. Roared on by a crowd of nearly 10,000 they played to the heading ability of inside right Keith Samuels.

Goalkeeper Alan Collier just got to one Samuels header.

Bedford had opened brightly and Danny Paton put them ahead after twenty-five minutes after beating four men.

Wycombe equalised seven minutes later when Les Merrick lifted a corner kick on to Samuels's head and it was a goal before Bedford could move.

F A Cup Second Replay

WYCOMBE AGREE TO CONTINUE MARATHON AT BEDFORD

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wycombe Wanderers 1 Bedford 1
(Abandoned after 90 minutes)

THE marathon first-round F A Cup-tie between Wycombe Wanderers, the Isthmian League amateurs and Bedford, of the Southern League, goes into its fourth stage on Thursday night, when the contest continues at Bedford.

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After 300 minutes' football in the tie, the referee, Arthur Diamond, wisely abandoned last night's second replay after 90 minutes. Torrential rain had made it impossible for him to find the centre-line for the start of extra time.

Mr. Diamond's decision sparked off considerable discussion in the Wycombe boardroom. Bedford, who had lost the toss for the venue after the second drawn match, were unwilling to run the risk of tossing again.

COUNCILLOR PUZZLED

Toss refused

After an F A councillor had confessed himself puzzled by the unusual situation arising from the referee's decision, Wycombe agreed to travel to Bedford again.

"It is only fair that the Bedford supporters should see the match again," said the Wycombe secretary, Mr. Bill Hayter.

On last night's evidence, it is still difficult to choose between the two teams. Wycombe have learned fast, and show unexpected reserves of stamina. Their wingers, Merrick and Worley, would worry many senior clubs.

Wycombe ignored the morass down the middle of the field, and played to the flanks whenever possible. Bedford contributed to their own problems by attempting close passing in shocking conditions.

Paton scored for Bedford in 25 minutes after a mistake by the goalkeeper. Maskell, and Samuels headed the equaliser from a corner seven minutes later.

Wycombe Wanderers.—J. Maskell, J. Beck, P. Royston, B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale, L. Worley, K. Samuels, P. Bates, A. Horseman, I. Merrick.

Bedford.—Collier, Morgan, Skinn, Willis, Collins, Cooley, Sturrock, Paton, Fogg, Riley, Benning.



Horseman, the Wycombe Wanderers inside-left (DARK SHIRT), wide of the mark with a header last night.